

Modal verbs

1. Complete the sentences with the modals below.

ought to • could • shouldn't • mustn't • needn't • must • can't • might

1. You drive above the speed limit.
2. We leave at once. It's dangerous to stay here.
3. you lend me your pen for a minute, please?
4. You have cut your hair. Long hair suits you.
5. He take time off from studying next year, but he's still not certain.
6. We phone Judy and tell her we're not coming. She's waiting for us.
7. I open this bottle. It's stuck tight.
8. You take me to the station. I'll take a taxi.

2. Choose the correct answer.

1. You burnt the rice. You ... watched the stove.
a. must have b. would have c. should have
2. She ... lost her way. She's never this late.
a. must have b. would have c. should have
3. He ... told her he didn't like her new hairstyle.
a. might not have b. shouldn't have c. could have
4. I ... visited Lucy, but I didn't know she was ill.
a. might have b. would have c. should have
5. He ... heard the phone ring, because he was listening to music on his MP4.
a. couldn't have b. wouldn't have c. shouldn't have
6. He ... called you but I don't remember.
a. must have b. would have c. might have

3. Complete the sentences using a suitable modal perfect and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Mary ignored Bob all evening. She (not treat) him that way.
2. Sandra (take) her driving test sooner, but she got scared at the last minute.
3. I'm not sure, but I think I (not give) the spare key to the babysitter.
4. He (not forget) to buy me a birthday present, because I reminded him every day.
5. Your parents (be) very worried when you didn't call them to say you had arrived.

4. Rewrite the following sentences using the correct form of the words in

brackets. Do not change the original meaning of the sentences.

1. I regret that I didn't learn to swim when I was younger. (should)
.....
2. There's no need for you to go out in this weather. (have)
.....
3. Tony knows how to do amazing juggling tricks. (can)
.....
4. You're not allowed to ride your bicycle here. (must)
.....
5. I advise you not to waste all your money. (should)
.....
6. There's a possibility it will snow tomorrow. (may)
.....
7. Do you feel like playing a game of chess? (would)
.....
8. Is it possible for me to borrow your bike? (could)
.....

Key

1. 1. mustn't 4. shouldn't 7. can't
 2. must 5. might 8. needn't
 3. Could 6. ought to
2. 1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. c
3. 1. shouldn't have treated
 2. could have taken
 3. might / may not have given
 4. couldn't have forgotten
 5. must have been
4. 1. I should have learned to swim when I was younger.
 2. You don't have to go out in this weather.
 3. Tony can do amazing juggling tricks.
 4. You mustn't ride your bicycle here.
 5. You shouldn't waste all your money.
 6. It may snow tomorrow.
 7. Would you like to play a game of chess?
 8. Could I borrow your bike?